

208408

July 15, 2003

VIA U.P.S. OVERNIGHT DELIVERY
Mr. Vernon Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 "K" St., N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JUL 16 2003

Part of
Public Record

**RE: Docket AB-33(Sub-No.171X), Union Pacific Railroad Company -
Abandonment Exemption - In Washington County, IL (Sparta Branch
from Milepost 41.1 near Oakdale, IL to the end of the track at Milepost
23.0 near Hoyleton, IL), a distance of 18.10 miles**

Dear Mr. Williams:

Pursuant to the Board's exemption procedures for abandonment of rail lines with no local business for at least two years, (49 C.F.R. 1152.50), the Union Pacific Railroad Company ("UP") filed an original and ten (10) copies of a verified Notice of Exemption, including a Certificate of Service and Publication on July 14, 2003. Three (3) responses from various governmental agencies in addition to those already attached to the Combined Environmental and Historic and the Notice of Exemption were inadvertently excluded from the Notice of Exemption filing.

An original and ten (10) sets of these responses are attached hereto to supplement the record for this abandonment.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures

O:\ABANDONMENT\33-171x\STB6.wpd

Mack H. Shumate, Jr.
Senior General Attorney, Law Department

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
101 N. Wacker Dr., Rm. 1920, Chicago, IL 60606-1718
ph. (312) 777-2055 fx. (312) 777-2065

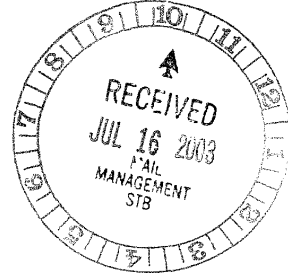
208408

Before the

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 171X)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY
-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
WASHINGTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
(SPARTA BRANCH)



**SUPPLEMENT TO
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

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Public Record

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Senior General Attorney
101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 777-2055
(312) 777-2065 FAX

Dated: July 15, 2003
Filed: July 16, 2003

Before the
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 171X)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY
-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
(SPARTA BRANCH)

**SUPPLEMENT TO
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

On July 14, 2003, Union Pacific Railroad Company ("UP") submitted its verified Notice of Exemption pursuant to 49 § C.F.R. 1152, Subpart F – Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service and Trackage Rights, for an exempt abandonment of the Sparta Branch from milepost 41.1 near Oakdale to the end of the track at milepost 23.0 near Hoyleton, a distance of 18.10 miles in Washington County, Illinois, (the "Line").

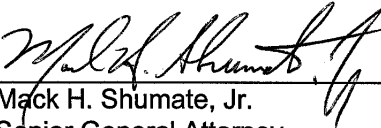
Three (3) additional responses to the proposed abandonment were received by UP and are attached hereto for the Board's review and consideration as **Exhibits D, E** and **F**, respectively. **Exhibit D** is a response from the United States Department of Agriculture indicating that the abandonment will have no effect on prime agricultural land. **Exhibit E** is a response from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("IEPA") indicating that the abandonment will have no environmental significance from a water quality perspective. **Exhibit F** is a response from the United States Environmental Protection Agency that defers to the IEPA regarding clean water issues

but makes recommendations as to performance of the salvage process after abandonment.

Dated this 15th day of July, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY



Mack H. Shumate, Jr.
Senior General Attorney

EXHIBIT D



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, 313 WEST BELMONT, SPARTA, IL 62286
(618)-443-4382

Mr. Chuck Saylor
1416 Dodge Street
Room 830
Omaha NE 68179

February 12, 2001

RE: Sparta Subdivision

Mr. Saylor,

The proposed action to abandon the Sparta Subdivision will have no effect on prime agricultural land in Randolph County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Steinman".

Dan Steinman
District Conservationist

copy: Bob Mcleese, NRCS, STSS



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276, 217-782-3397
JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 11-300, CHICAGO, IL 60601, 312-814-6026

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH, GOVERNOR

RENEE CIPRIANO, DIRECTOR

217/782-0610

June 4, 2003

Charles W. Saylor
Director-Legal Support Services
Union Pacific Railroad Company
1416 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68179

**Re: Union Pacific Railroad
Discontinuance of Sparta Branch (Hoyleton to Oakdale)
Finding of No Environmental Significance**

Dear Mr. Saylor:

The Illinois EPA has received your information dated April 14 and May 21, 2003 for the proposal referenced above. The Agency has reviewed your information and finds that there appears to be no environmental significance, from a water quality perspective, for the proposed abandonment of the Sparta Branch railroad line in Washington County, Illinois. This determination assumes that no construction or demolition is to take place as a result of this proposal.

Should you have any questions regarding this response please contact Blaine Kinsley of my staff at the indicated telephone number and/or address.

Sincerely,

Toby Frevert, P.E.
Manager, Division of Water Pollution Control

TF:BAK:l:\1296\docs\unionpacific.doc

cc: Records Unit
Byron Marks, Marion Region

ROCKFORD - 4302 North Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103 - (815) 987-7760 • DES PLAINES - 9511 W. Harrison St., Des Plaines, IL 60016 - (847) 294-4000
ELGIN - 595 South State, Elgin, IL 60123 - (847) 608-3131 • PEORIA - 5415 N. University St., Peoria, IL 61614 - (309) 693-5463
BUREAU OF LAND - PEORIA - 7620 N. University St., Peoria, IL 61614 - (309) 693-5462 • CHAMPAIGN - 2125 South First Street, Champaign, IL 61820 - (217) 278-5800
SPRINGFIELD - 4500 S. Sixth Street Rd., Springfield, IL 62706 - (217) 786-6892 • COLLINSVILLE - 2009 Mall Street, Collinsville, IL 62234 - (618) 346-5120
MARION - 2309 W. Main St., Suite 116, Marion, IL 62959 - (618) 993-7200



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

EXHIBIT F

MAY 08 2003

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF: WN-16J

Mr. Chuck Saylor
1416 Dodge Street
Room 830
Omaha, NE 68179

Dear Mr. Saylor:

This is in response to your letter of April 14, 2003, regarding the proposed discontinuance of the Sparta Branch from M.P. 23.0 to M.P. 41.1 in Washington County, Illinois; STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 171X).


Based on the information submitted in that letter, the decision as to the need for permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act should be determined by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, one of this letter's addressees.

In the process of abandoning the rail line, none of the debris may be discarded along the right of way or left in streams or wetlands, or the banks of such waterways. During track and cross tie removal, appropriate measures must be taken to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutants from entering any watercourses.

Please address future correspondence related to these matters to:

Rebecca Harvey, Chief
NPDES Programs Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard, WN-16J
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Sincerely yours,


Irvin J. Dzikowski, P.E.
NPDES Program Branch

bcc: R. Harvey